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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION FROM  
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Yugoslavia  
SUBJECT Economic - Coal mining, manpower

DATE OF INFORMATION 1951

HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspaper

DATE DIST. 24 Jan 1952

WHERE PUBLISHED Zagreb

NO. OF PAGES 4

DATE PUBLISHED 14 Oct - 2 Nov 1951

LANGUAGE Serbo-Croatian

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Borba.

VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE MANPOWER FOR SERBIAN COAL MINES;  
CONFIRM BLACK COAL RESERVES

COMMUNIST PARTY, PEOPLE'S FRONT PROVIDE MANPOWER -- Zagreb, Borba, 28 Oct 51

Although Serbian coal mines made significant progress in 1951 as compared with 1950, it was insufficient to satisfy the increased demands of Yugoslav consumers and industry. Primarily because of a manpower shortage, coal production began declining the the second half of 1951.

In the first half of 1951, Serbian coal mines fulfilled their plan 91 percent (black coal 100 percent, brown coal 84 percent, and lignite 94 percent). In succeeding months this percentage decreased considerably. In July, black coal mines fulfilled 69 percent of their plan; in August, 66 percent; in September, 56 percent; and up to 17 October, 56 percent. In July, brown coal mines fulfilled 68 percent of their plan; in August, 70 percent, in September, 69 percent; and up to 17 October, 62 percent. In July, lignite mines fulfilled 57 percent of their plan, in August, 63 percent; in September, 82 percent; and up to 17 October, 80 percent.

Significant increases in October were due to the Communist Party and People's Front sending their members to work in the mines. A total of 2,038 workers and 3,000 farmers are to participate in this program; by 25 October, 1,452 workers and 777 farmers had reported. If the remainder arrive in a short time, production losses can be made up to a great extent. The Vojvodina was scheduled to send 270 workers, but 300 reported.

Working conditions are very good in most of the mines. Workers receive 120 dinars daily in addition to wages received from their regular jobs; in October, they also received additional food coupons. These advantages have been well advertised in the Vojvodina in the campaign for additional manpower, and are the main reason why the Vrdnik mine now has sufficient workers. The Vojvodina has also fulfilled its plan for sending new workers to Kostolac and Kolubara.

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In the rest of Serbia, Mlava Srez is outstanding for sending slightly less than the planned number of workers to the Mlava mine.

A considerable number of srezes were far from fulfilling their plan, for the project was not approached with the proper seriousness, and recruitment was conducted in a hit-or-miss fashion. Srezes which should have sent workers to the Aleksinac mines are an example. The Aleksinac mine needed about 1,100 workers. Of the 289 workers and 800 farmers who were to have reported, only 154 workers and 135 farmers reported.

Seasonal agricultural work can no longer be claimed as the main obstacle to recruiting new workers for summer work in the mines. The manpower problem cannot be solved at once, because the great expansion of Serbian mining has led to a shortage of professional miners. This condition will exist for some time, for insufficient mechanization makes the manpower shortage felt even more keenly. However, available manpower has not been utilized to the fullest, not only because available workers have not been recruited to the fullest extent, but because those who did report were not properly received.

Mines which felt the manpower shortage most acutely did not provide as good working conditions and as good housing as possible for the new workers. Mines were not concerned that many of the new workers had never been in a mine before, and should have been helped in their work, housing, and supplies. Particular attention should also have been paid to seeing that new workers received their regular pay and bonuses for exceeding quotas regularly and on time. However, this did not apply to all mines. The Aleksina, Arandjelovac and Senjski Rudnik mines provided good working and living conditions for their new workers.

-- M. T.

EXPLAIN WORKERS' OBJECTIONS TO WORK IN MINES -- Zagreb, Borba, 2 Nov 51

At the request of the Communist Party, workers of the "Vetserum" Bureau in Zemun went to work in the "Rtanj" black coal mine to help fulfill the plan. Petar Jovanovic, assistant director of the bureau, described their experiences with the mine management and the reasons why many workers in the vicinity of the mine will not work in it.

Members of the "Vetserum" trade union believe that workers in the vicinity will not work in the mine because the administration is poor and because various inequities occur, not because living conditions are poor. For example, miners with an R-1 food ration card are fed the same rations as clerks (of whom there are many more), whose cards call for less rations. Consequently, rations are inadequate for miners doing heavy physical labor.

Workdays are frequently computed incorrectly, workers sometimes being credited with fewer days than they work, sometimes with more. Workers are not paid immediately after the first of the month, as is normal, but are paid between the 10th and 15th of the month, probably because of administrative difficulties.

The greatest surprise occurred recently when pay computations were completed. Members of the "Vetserum" trade union did not even receive their normal pay, not to speak of the supplementary allowances for exceeding their quotas. The supplementary allowances for work on Sundays were not computed. Consequently, the total pay was not sufficient even to cover expenses incurred. It is well known that all mine workers should be paid at least as much as they were on their previous jobs; if they exceed their quotas they are supposed to be paid a supplementary sum. This was not done in the Rtanj mine.

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Some workers had to pay their own transportation to and from work, because the mine refused to recognize transportation cards for the entire group, but only recognized those of the 16 who had been scheduled to come originally. The agreement worked out by the bureau with the Main Directorate for Coal of Serbia was not generally recognized.

The mine director had promised the departing workers truck transportation to the station, but forgot to inform his subordinates, so a number of them had to walk to the station, which was quite far.

Sixteen men had been scheduled to go to work in the Rtanj mine from the "Vetserum" Bureau, but many more reported. The management had an agreement with the main directorate that instead of 16 workers who could work 2 months, about 32 men would go to complete the work in one month by working two shifts. When the first group arrived at the mine, no one awaited them, nor was anyone concerned with showing them how to work in a mine, although they were descending into the pits for the first time. The new workers had to learn by experience or by questioning the regular workers. After 12 days of using a forbidden path to enter the mine they were finally noticed. After 10 days, they learned who the mine director was. The party and union leadership was very little concerned with these men.

OVER 2,300 WORKERS FROM VOJVODINA VOLUNTEER -- Zagreb, Borba, 2 Nov 51

Novi Sad, 1 November -- Over 2,300 (about 200 more than anticipated) workers and clerks from establishments and enterprises in the Vojvodina have thus far reported for work in mines and on priority construction projects in Serbia proper. Among them were about 450 carpenters and masons urgently needed at building sites.

MACEDONIAN MILITIAMEN VOLUNTEER FOR WORK IN MINES -- Zagreb, Borba, 2 Nov 51

Skoplje, 1 November -- Over 220 members of the People's Militia of Macedonia are to report for work in the mines. The first groups of militiamen have already reported for voluntary work in the Aleksinac and Rtanj mines. Officers, noncommissioned officers, and militiamen will remain on the job about 2 months.

MEMBERS OF SLOVENIAN MILITIA VOLUNTEER -- Zagreb, Borba, 2 Nov 51

Ljubljana, 1 November -- On 31 October, 200 officers, noncommissioned officers, and militiamen of the People's Militia of Slovenia left Ljubljana for 2 months of voluntary work in the Zagorje, Hrastnik, Senovo, Kocevje, Velenje, and Kisovec mines in Slovenia. The militiamen are from various parts of Slovenia; the majority left for the Velenje mine.

HELP KREKA MINE TO FULFILL PLAN -- Zagreb, Borba, 2 Nov 51

Tuzla, 1 November -- Work brigades composed of members of the Communist Party and the People's Front have begun arriving at the Kreka lignite mine to help fulfill the annual plan; 460 workers have come from Banjaluka Oblast and 1,100 from Tuzla Oblast. The largest number (285) came from Tuzla Srez; 136 from Zvornik Srez; 186 from Lopar Srez; and 162 from Bracane Srez.

With the help of these new workers, conditions are favorable for fulfilling the annual plan on time.

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CONFIRM BLACK COAL RESERVES IN MAJEVICA MOUNTAINS -- Zagreb, Borba, 14 Oct 51

Tuzla, 10 October -- In 1919, an Austrian firm attempted to exploit the black coal deposits in the Majevica mountains and opened a mine near Lopare. However, this firm and successive operators eventually abandoned the mine because of transportation difficulties and lack of mechanical equipment.

To exploit anew the black coal reserves in Majevica, the Directorate of Mines in Kreka began new geologic exploration of the area and established the existence of considerable reserves of black coal under the slopes around Lopare. A tunnel is under construction which will emerge on the Tuzla-Brcko highway, where coal is to be trucked to Brcko to be loaded in railroad cars.

According to the chief engineer of the Kreka mines, who is also engineer of the Majevica mine, over 500 tons of black coal which was mined for testing is now awaiting transportation to the new highway.

Coal from the new mine has a calorific value of 5,500 to 7,000 calories. The mine is to begin working early in 1952. To permit its thorough exploitation, the Kreka directorate is considering constructing an industrial railroad from Tuzla to the mine. This railroad would be about 15 kilometers long and would run along the stream valleys, thus eliminating all tunneling.

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